



A "CHURCH FARM"

IN

ASSINIBOIA,
NORTH-WEST CANADA.

"LABORARE EST ORARE."

IF the Ministrations of the Church are to be brought within the reach of the vast scattered population now growing up in the North-West of Canada, in anything like an adequate measure, it is certain that it must be done by a nearer approach to the Apostolic example than we are accustomed to.

A continual flow of Subscriptions from England for the support of the Clergy, sufficient to meet the needs, cannot be expected, while it must be some years before the Settlers themselves will be able to support a Parochial system such as we have in England.

If the Clergy themselves cannot *work with their hands*, to earn their own livelihood, as this would take too much of their time that would otherwise be more profitably employed, their efforts must be largely supplemented by those who can and will do so for Christ's sake.

It is certain also that there are many earnestly devoted young men in England who would be willing to give themselves to any work whereby they might aid in the cause of Christ, if only a way was opened for them. For this purpose it is proposed to establish a "CHURCH FARM" in Assiniboia.

The object of the Farm would be as follows :—

1. To give an opportunity of self-support to men who are anxious to receive Holy Orders, but who are unable to find means for their maintenance at a Theological College.

Manual labour and study have been, in former times, profitably combined, and it is believed that the life in the West of Canada, especially during the long winters, offers great facilities for this combination.

2. Men with zeal for God's work, while earning their own livelihood on this Farm, would be also providing, by their labour, a revenue for the Church's work, and thus be in a very true sense "fellow-helpers," and they might also be employed, as opportunity offered, in the surrounding District, in various kinds of Lay-work, on Sundays, and through the winter months.

3. Many persons in England find it difficult to know where to send young men for a certain time before they take up land for themselves in that country. It is believed that many would be very thankful to know of a Farm under Church Superintendence, where young men would be assured all Church privileges. Such training and influence would also, it is hoped, make the men who had been at the Farm real helpers of the Church in the Districts where they might afterwards settle. It would thus be an ever widening work.

The Farm would be managed as follows :—

1. A Clergyman would be at the head, to supervise the men, conduct the religious Services, and train those preparing for Holy Orders.

2. A good practical Farmer would have the superintendence of the agricultural work as Bailiff.
3. All persons on the Farm would be required to accept a few simple rules of religious life.
4. If in any case travelling expenses are paid from England whether with a view to the persons for whom such expenses are paid preparing for Holy Orders, or to their becoming Lay Workers, a three years' service, at least, will be expected. The money paid will in every case be in the form of a loan, repayment of which will be required if the conditions are not fulfilled.

The expense of commencing this Farm, which it is believed will be of the greatest value for the Church in this Province, will necessarily be considerable, but money thus invested will be sure to yield a good permanent interest for the work of the Church. £2,000 would enable the work to be commenced. This sum is, therefore, earnestly asked for. If the sum cannot be raised by Donations, perhaps some Church people may be willing to help with LOANS.

Offers of Donations towards this special work, or of Loans (the Loans must be in sums of not less than £100, and will bear interest at 4 per cent.), will be thankfully received by me,

ADELBERT ANSON,

Bishop of Assiniboia.

P.S.—Since the above scheme has been formulated, two young men from Leeds (one with some experience of farming), have voluntarily set forth, at their own expense and risk, to gain the experience of a summer's work in Assiniboia. They have done this in the hope of being able to assist, with the experience thus gained, in the starting of the Farm. Already, therefore, there seems good prospect of the Farm being furnished with workers. The work is being blessed at its commencement by this real act of self-devotion, and a great encouragement is thus given to carry out this important experiment.

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MARCH, 1885.—Between £500 and £600 have been contributed to the Farm Fund up to the above date. The Bishop has secured 640 acres of land in a most favourable situation, close to the Town of Qu'Appelle. The Council regard the Church Farm as a very important part of the mission scheme, and trust that the Fund will now soon begin to grow. A gentleman has very kindly expressed his willingness to lend £100, on easy terms of repayment, provided that 19 more persons could be found to do the same.

The Secretary, Rev. J. S. HOLDEN, Aston Rectory, Derby, or Mrs. A. ANSON, 13, Cavendish Square, W., will thankfully receive any offers or subscriptions.

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